

Woodmansey CE Primary School

Building strong foundations, unlocking potential.

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WOODMANSEY CE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Return of all children to school: 8th March 2021

On Monday, the day we have longed for, following what seems to many of us the bleakest of winter months, is upon us; all our pupils can once again attend school. It is in fact mandatory and legally required. Unauthorised absences and the potential for fines following an accrued absence of five days are being restored.

I know the children who have been in school are looking forward to the return of their friends just as much as those who have been full time at home. In times of trouble and uncertainty, it is very easy to feel the weight of the negativity, but my team and I have the greatest privilege of being able to witness the huge amount of positivity your children bring with them into school. It must however be recognised by all of us that those children who have been isolated from school since December have shouldered the biggest burden, and we shall be vigilant to support them, mentally and physically, as well as educationally as they return. It is our priority to ensure all children feel safe, secure and valued in their classes before charging forward.

What follows is valid and relevant to ALL families. PLEASE DO TAKE TIME TO READ.

The systems in place are exactly as they were, when we closed for the Christmas Holiday and which have been running since then. Please follow the one-way system along the Yellow Line at all times. Staggered start and finish times remain as follows:

Nursery & Foundation Year: 8.30am – 3pm

Year 1 and Year 2: 8.35am – 3.05pm

Year 3 and Year 4: 8.40am – 3.10pm

Year 5 and Year 6: 8.45am - 3.15pm

Children will need with them on Monday, their bookbag, their school water bottle and their P.E kit, which will remain in school all week and can be taken home on Friday for washing. Please let the school office know if any uniform items need refreshing.

Breakfast and Afternoon Tea Clubs are running as before, with access from the stars on the playground. Please wait on a star and a member of staff will collect your child. Please note that drop off for Breakfast Club is between 8am-8.20am.

We continue to keep the children in their Key Stage bubbles, working predominantly just with their classes. Please respect these outside the family home as far as is possible.

The arrangements for home learning will remain in place for those isolating and should a Bubble have to close.

As before, if anyone in a household is displaying symptoms and/or waiting the results of a Covid test, pupils MUST NOT COME TO SCHOOL.

We are told that the new variants of the virus are more easily transmitted than the original and now we learn that the Brazilian and South African variants are in this country. We have felt



fortunate that our bubbles have been fairly unaffected in comparison to other schools, but the danger of a case in school resulting in a Bubble being sent home is as great now as it has ever been. Cases may be falling, but the virus is still prevalent in our area. The virus has not gone away, prevalence in the East Riding is actually above the national average per 100 000 people.

There have been cases recently linked to staff and families, none of which were caught in school, and thanks to the strict and timely systems in place, no transmission occurred on site. I cannot reiterate though that we all must be extra vigilant, **WE CANNOT RELAX. Lockdown has NOT ended. Regulations have not changed.** The only thing which has changed is the ability of all children to attend school.

We know however, if we get these staged changes wrong, the availability of the shops, facilities and holidays which we yearn for will be delayed even further.

We have a responsibility to all do our bit. We must all maintain our guard and not relax.

May I remind everyone of the following:

- **The security of our bubbles does not end at the school gate. I urge you all to think about how you travel, to and from school. Please avoid walking with other families and please keep your children close and with you particularly when leaving the school site.**
- **Please do not arrive to school too early. We have limited waiting space, and do not want to create a crowd at the front of school. If you do arrive early, continue on the path and take the opportunity for a little walk until it is time to return. Please do not be offended if you are asked to do just this.**
- **Please use the white lines to create distance between you and other families when you are stood waiting to enter the site.**
- **Please walk with your own household/support bubble, in a single file on the yellow line one-way system.**
- **Remember your face covering if you are able to use one.**
- **Remain on a star on the playground until all the children have been handed over and you are instructed to return to the yellow line to leave the school site.**
- **Only one parent/secondary child to drop off or collect, this limits the amount of people on our playground.**

The above equally applies to families using the breakfast and after-school clubs.

I think the advice that we “presume everyone we meet could be Covid positive” is still worth keeping in our minds and we should remember this when waiting to come onto the school site. This includes at the entrances to the school. Please do not use the opportunity at the gates to gather in groups. The rules regarding meeting others outside our home includes to and from school and waiting at the school gates. So those collecting or dropping off pupils are reminded not to socialise whilst waiting. As ever, thank you for your understanding.

Meanwhile in school, key messages of good ventilation, social distancing, face coverings for staff and hand hygiene are there to ensure that cases do not spread in our school and our risk assessments, driven by the local authority are reviewed frequently.

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees

- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, please call 119. Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm. Or follow: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff> for more information.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

I ask all of you to have a chat with your children on Monday morning. Every staff member and every child will be back in the building on Monday. Children need to realise that whereas school will be great and exciting, it is not going back to the free days of 2019. We have to maintain our distance, follow the rules in corridors and toilets. Children need to wash their hands at key moments and use the hand gels and think before they move about and also remember that they are part of the solution to enabling the next phase of lockdown being released.

We are all looking forward to having the Woodmansey family back together,

Best wishes,



Mrs. B Nicholls

Head of School